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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2719

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Toshihiro MOROHOSHI *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: 2819  
)  
Serial No.: 10/025,781 ) Examiner: Not Assigned  
)  
Filed: December 26, 2001 )  
)  
For: DIGITAL )  
RECORDING/PLAYBACK )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b), but to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication. A copy of the listed document is enclosed.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form. In lieu of a statement of relevance, an English version of the communication from the Japanese Patent Office in the counterpart foreign application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. An English translation of the abstract for the cited document is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

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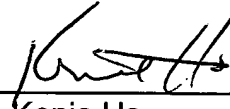
Serial No.: 10/025,781

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

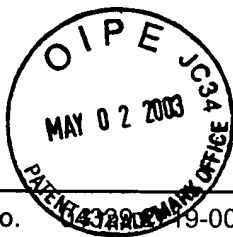
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Dated: May 2, 2003

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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Atty. Docket No.	43290-19-00000	Appln. No.	10/025,781
Applicant	Toshihiro MOROHOSHI et al.		
Filing Date	December 26, 2001	Group:	2819

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
10-271457	Oct. 9, 1998	Japan			No

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce